unemployed daughters, mother and father) of deceased freedom fighters pensioners has been decentralized with effect from 1.5.1992. The Pension Disbursing Authorities (Public Sector Bank Branches and Government Treasuries) have been authorized to transfer dependent family pension to the eligible dependents at their level.

(d) No statistics relating to the number of widows who are getting pension are maintained.

Separatist forces in Manipur

† *317. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that separatist forces are creating obstructions in the functioning of local administration in Manipur;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) the strategy prepared by Government to tackle separatist forces in the State and the main features thereof; and

(d) whether Government are preparing any comprehensive plan for early solution of this burning issue by including various ethnic groups and political leaders of Manipur; if so, complete details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI REGUPATHY): (a) and (b)Anumber of militant outfits are operating in Manipur. Their activities, inter alia, include extortion, forcefully obtaining contract works in the name of their front organisations, resorting to frequent *'Bandhs'* and 'General Strikes' causing strain on the law and order machinery and hampering economic growth.

(c) and (d) The strategy adopted by Government to deal with militant outfits in Manipur, *inter alia,* includes enhanced deployment of Army and Central Police Forces, coordinated action by the security forces for counter insurgency operations, modernization/upgradation of the State Police Forces, reimbursement of security related expenditure to the State Government and declaration of militant organizations as 'unlawful associations'. A Unified Headquarters has also been set up in the State

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of Manipur in September, 2004 to synergise security and counter insurgency operations undertaken by State Police, Central Police Forces and Army in the State. Government has also extended an invitation to all militant outfits to give up the path of violence and to come forward for talks. Social and economic development programmes are being intensified. Regular meetings to review and keep a watch on the situations are held at all levels between the Central and the State Government.

Export growth target

*318. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether export growth target of 15 per cent frixed in this year's foreign trade policy has been surpassed in first half of 2005-2006 with exports shooting up to $43.2 billion and registered a growth of 20.52 per cent against last year's half-yearly export figure of $35.86 billion;

(b) whether Inter State Trade Council had its first meeting in October-November, 2005;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to remove export cess on export of all agricultural and plantation commodities levied under various commodity board acts; and

(d) if so, the what extent Government is expected to improve further exports during the remaining period of current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The annual export target for the current fiscal was fixed at US $ 92 billion implying a growth of around 15 per cent over exports of the previous year. Against this target, exports registered a growth of 20.52% during April-September, 2005-2006 being valued at US $ 43.2 billion compared with US $35.9 billion during the same period of last year.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Government has approved a proposal for removal of cess on export of agricultural commodities presently levied under the Agricultural